creation of a National Reconstruction Corps is under formulation.

(b) The scheme aims to provide an opportunity to youth in the age group of 18—35 to participate on a voluntary basis in various community based developmental programmes in areas, such as agriculture and rural development, literacy, health, environmental protection, promotion of arts, sports and culture etc.

Commission for women's rights

1504. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether members of the National Commission for Women have appealed to Government to appoint a Commission for Women's rights, to look after all the gender-related issues;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to amend National Commission for Women Act to provide it with more powers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government propose to fill up the post of Chairman of the said Commission, lying vacant for the last four months?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The post of Chairperson, National Commission for Women has been filled up.

Re-Introduction of private University Bill

1505. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Private Universities (Establishment & Regulation) Bill, 1995 is likely to be re-introduced as the Self Financing Universities Bill; and

(b) if so, the highlights of the proposed Bill?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 25, 1995. It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD. The Committee submitted its Report with certain suggestions which are under active consideration of the Government.

The provisions are made in the Bill for prevention of commercialisation and mismanagement. Certain safeguards are also made in the Bill like protection of the interests of poor and meritorious students and interest of faculty members. The University Grants Commission has been given power to ensure academic standards. In addition to the aforesaid features of the Bill rest are as under:

Track Record of Sponsors is to be specified. Comments of the concerned State Government are to be sought. An amount of Rupees Ten Crores is to be deposited by the sponsores. 30 per cent of total seats are to be covered by the freeships and scholarships to be provided by the sponsores. Detailed Admission Procedure and Procedure for grant of freeships are to be approved by the UGC before the University becomes functional. Powers to approve First and subsequent Statutes and to consider Ordinances should rest with the Government. Thirty per cent Free seats will be provided for meritorious students. First Vice-Chancellor will be appointed by the Central Goverment. Method of appointment and conditions of service shall have the approval of the UGC.